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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

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Identical letters dated 7 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to paragraph 29 of Security Council resolution 1493 (2003) of 28 July 2003. I have the honour to inform you that, on 25 September 2003, I convened a high-level meeting of heads of State and senior representatives of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, as well as Angola, Mozambique, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

In calling the meeting, I sought to build on the recent positive developments in and around the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the establishment of a Government of National Unity and Transition. I was gratified, therefore, by the successful conclusion of the high-level meeting and the adoption of the attached Principles on Good-Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the matter to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

03-55319 (E) 131003

Annex

Principles on Good Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda

High-level meeting, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 25 September 2003

The President of the Republic of Burundi, the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda, the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, in the presence of the President of the Republic of Mozambique and Chairperson of the African Union, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, meeting in New York under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the establishment of the Government of National Unity and Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement of 17 December 2002, is an essential factor for the peace and security necessary to ensure the development of good-neighbourly relations and cooperation with one another,

Recognizing the need for their Governments to work closely together to achieve a lasting peace and foster sustainable development in the Great Lakes region,

Recalling the Lusaka Agreement of July 1999, the Pretoria Agreement of July 2002, the Luanda Agreement of September 2002 and other relevant agreements, and determined to live together in peace, build confidence and promote good-neighbourly relations and cooperation with one another,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and taking into account relevant Security Council and African Union resolutions, including those concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

1. *Reaffirm* their commitment to:

(a) Respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of one another;

(b) Refrain from interfering directly or indirectly in one another's internal affairs;

(c) Refrain from any action aimed at the partial or total disruption of the stability, national unity and territorial integrity of one another;

(d) Prevent, in this regard, the direct or indirect supply of arms and support to armed groups operating in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1493 (2003);

(e) Pursue peaceful means to resolve their disputes;

(f) Normalize their bilateral relations by re-establishing full diplomatic relations with one another;

(g) Cooperate with one another in the political, security, economic, social, and cultural fields, in accordance with the principles of sovereign equality and non-intervention and with the aim of promoting peace and development and assuring mutual security along their common borders;

2. *Decide* to further pursue bilateral discussions on how to implement the above principles.